

EDUCATION WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE.

SUMMONED before the bar of critical analysis, the title of this article would not receive very favorable comment.

Education, that body of laws, pedagogy, and all other auxiliary sciences that make up education, must necessarily have an eye, and that eye must be directed to the future. However, it is also true, and it is here reluctantly admitted with shame, that there is such a system of education which is either eyeless and merely gropes in the dark, or the location of its eyes enables it to look only back to the past and prevents it from penetrating the present or lifting the veil of the future. It goes without saying, that such a system of education is hardly deserving of the name, and where it is established and becomes dominant, it can only result detrimentally to those who are unfortunately placed under its influence. Looking at it from that standpoint, it is permissible to talk of education with an eye to the future—or rather it is agreeable and profitable to discuss true education.

True education necessarily takes cognizance of the future; beginning with the child, it merely touches the dormant qualities and attempts to stir them into action and to direct them into the proper channels. It sees in embryo temper and temperament, tendencies and habits which must be improved and nursed and chastened; not merely for present transitory purposes, but with an eye to the future, looking forward to the growth of manhood and womanhood. It attacks mental directness or mental perversity; mental vigor or mental weakness; and its object is to give it proper nourishment or the proper balance, as the case might be, and thus develop it into a harmonious whole for usefulness in the distant future.

True education does not merely impart knowledge for the present, but makes present knowledge a lower stratum for a deep foundation, and, as time goes on, for the erection of a beautiful, and if possible, sanitary and pleasant superstructure. The perverse temper, the ugly habits and the unwholesome proclivities are curbed in the present that the child may,